

## CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

- 5 1. A device comprising:  
a network interface for coupling to a network; and  
a processor coupled with the network interface, in which the processor is adapted  
to  
receive voice data packets through a packet switched network;  
10 store the received packets in a buffer;  
play out some of the stored packets from the buffer;  
extract a comparative discardability code of a specific one of the stored  
packets relative to the others;  
make a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the  
15 extracted comparative discardability code; and  
delete the specific packet without playing it out if the discard decision is to  
drop the packet.
2. The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:  
20 determine to diminish a size of the buffer, and  
in which the comparative discardability code is extracted responsive to the  
determination.
3. The device of claim 1, in which the processor is further adapted to:  
25 set a discarding probability in accordance with the analyzed comparative  
discardability code, and  
in which the discard decision is made in accordance with the set discarding  
probability.
- 30 4. A device comprising:  
means for receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;

means for storing the received packets in a buffer;  
means for playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;  
means for extracting a comparative discardability code of a specific one of the  
stored packets relative to the others;

5 means for making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with  
the extracted comparative discardability code; and

means for deleting the specific packet without playing it out if the discard  
decision is to drop the packet.

10 5. The device of claim 4, further comprising:  
means for determining to diminish a size of the buffer, and  
in which the comparative discardability code is extracted responsive to the  
determination.

15 6. The device of claim 4, further comprising:  
means for setting a discarding probability in accordance with the analyzed  
comparative discardability code, and  
in which the discard decision is made in accordance with the set discarding  
probability.

20 7. An article comprising: a storage medium, the storage medium having instructions  
stored thereon, in which when the instructions are executed by at least one device, they  
result in:

receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;  
25 storing the received packets in a buffer;  
playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;  
extracting a comparative discardability code of a specific one of the stored  
packets relative to the others;  
making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the extracted  
30 comparative discardability code; and

deleting the specific packet without playing it out if the discard decision is to drop the packet.

8. The article of claim 7, in which the instructions further result in:

5 determining to diminish a size of the buffer, and  
in which the comparative discardability code is extracted responsive to the determination.

9. The article of claim 7, in which the instructions further result in:

10 setting a discarding probability in accordance with the analyzed comparative discardability code, and  
in which the discard decision is made in accordance with the set discarding probability.

15 10. A method comprising:

receiving voice data packets through a packet switched network;  
storing the received packets in a buffer;  
playing out some of the stored packets from the buffer;  
extracting a comparative discardability code of a specific one of the stored

20 packets relative to the others;

making a discard decision for the specific packet in accordance with the extracted comparative discardability code; and

deleting the specific packet without playing it out if the discard decision is to drop the packet.

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11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining to diminish a size of the buffer, and  
in which the comparative discardability code is extracted responsive to the determination.

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12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

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setting a discarding probability in accordance with the analyzed comparative discardability code, and

in which the discard decision is made in accordance with the set discarding probability.

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